

Question for written answer E-002615/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Notis Marias (ECR)

Subject: Massive delays in the construction of the Thessaloniki Metro

In September 2003, it was decided to build the Thessaloniki Metro as a public project co-funded by Greece and the European Union.

On 7 April 2006, the contract was signed with the contractor consortium and at the end of June 2006 construction work began.

In June 2013, a contract was signed with another contractor for the construction of the extension of the Thessaloniki Metro to Kalamaria, a project included in the NSRF 'Macedonia – Thrace' Operational Programme. It is funded by loans from the European Investment Bank.

It should be noted that, in order to fund the construction of the Thessaloniki Metro, EUR 550 million has also been secured from the EIB, as an approved loan on favourable terms, together with EUR 250 million from the third CSF.

But although 90% of the time allocated for construction of the project has now elapsed, there have been immense delays, since only 23% of the project has been built. This has prompted an investigation by the Thessaloniki Public Prosecutor with responsibility for fraud.

In view of the above, will the Commission say:

1. Has it investigated the causes of the delay in construction of the Thessaloniki Metro and, if so, has it established who is responsible?
2. What steps will it take to accelerate the construction of the project which is primarily being funded by the EU?